

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: _____ G. _____

Date: _____ March 23, 2005 _____

Topic: First Review of Nomination for Appointment to the State Special Education Advisory Committee

Presenter: H. Douglas Cox, Assistant Superintendent, Special Education and Student Services

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Origin:

_____ Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

x Board review required by

x State or federal law or regulation

_____ Board of Education regulation

_____ Other: _____

x Action requested at this meeting _____ Action requested at future meeting: _____ (date)

Previous Review/Action:

x No previous board review/action

_____ Previous review/action

date _____

action _____

Background Information:

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires the establishment of this advisory committee to advise the State Education Agency on the education of children with disabilities. The committee membership as required by IDEA must consist of:

- * Parents of children with disabilities;
- * Individuals with disabilities;
- * Teachers;
- * Representatives of institutions of higher education that prepare special education and related services personnel, state and local education officials, administrators of programs for children with disabilities;
- * Representatives of other state agencies involved in the financing or delivery of related services to children with disabilities;
- * Representatives of private schools and public charter schools;
- * At least one representative of a vocational, community, or business organization concerned with the provision of transition services to children with disabilities; and
- * Representatives from the State juvenile and adult corrections agencies.
- * A majority of the members of the committee must be individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities.

Dr. Michael Behrmann

Dr. Behrmann received his Ed.D. in Special Education from Teachers College, Columbia University in 1978. As part of his post-doctoral activities, Dr. Behrmann was a participant in the Professional Leadership Program on assignment to the Governmental Relations Unit of the American Educational Research Association. In 1979, he came to George Mason University's Special Education Programs as Coordinator of the Graduate program in Severely Multi-Handicapped. He began his research with technology in special education in 1981 and designed and implemented a masters degree program in Special Education Technology in 1986, followed by a doctoral program in Special Education Technology.

He has been responsible for obtaining numerous federal, state and local as well as foundation grants and contracts for training, technical assistance and research. He is currently the Helen A. Kellar Professor of Special Education in the Graduate School of Education and the Director of Helen A. Kellar Institute for Human Disabilities at George Mason University. He is currently the coordinator of GMU's Special Education Programs and also has been coordinator for the Instructional Technology Programs in GSE. He is professor in charge of the programs in Assistive/Special Education Technology in Instructional Technology and in Severe Disabilities in Special Education.

Dr. Behrmann has a depth and breadth of experience that can add value to the Special Education Advisory Committee including current work as:

- Director of T/TAC for Region IV
- Director of the Virginia Assistive Technology (VATS) North Technical Assistance Center
- Founder, Director of George Mason University's Learning into Future Environments (LIFE) Program for students with intellectual disabilities who want a college experience
- Subcontractor, National Assistive Technology Research Institute (NATRI)
- Task Force Member, US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Program, Postsecondary Transition Task Force
- Advisory Member, Virginia State Teacher Licensure Program
- Director, TTAC Online for Virginia's teachers, service providers and parents
- Director, Literacy Access Online, an accessible website to enable parents, teachers and tutors to teach literacy skills to children with disabilities
- Developer, handheld data collection system for teachers to collect observational data
- Charter member and executive committee member for CEC's Technology and Media Division (TAM)

Summary of Major Elements

The position of a representative from an institution of higher education is currently vacant.

Dr. Michael Behrmann is recommended for appointment by the Board for this position. Biographical information about Dr. Behrmann is attached. The term of office is three years, beginning April 1, 2005.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board waive first review and accept the nomination.

Impact on Resources:

None

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

NA